
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8032

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senator Morton

Read first time 02/06/08. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The citizens of Washington believe in the right to vote
9 and that in a democracy there is nothing more fundamental than the
10 right to vote; and

11 WHEREAS, In the interest of bolstering the electoral process, the
12 vote-by-mail process should be as convenient as possible; and

13 WHEREAS, Voting by mail increasingly requires more than one stamp
14 when returning a ballot, unbeknownst to voters, resulting in ballots
15 being returned as a result of insufficient postage, which is contrary
16 to the fundamental right to vote; and

17 WHEREAS, Providing postage prepaid return envelopes with vote-by-
18 mail ballots will ensure that the fundamental right to vote is
19 protected, and will encourage voter participation; and

1 WHEREAS, Requiring voters to provide their own postage return for
2 vote-by-mail ballots may be considered a poll-tax; and

3 WHEREAS, Postage on mailings that are transported through the
4 United States Postal Service falls within the federal purview, and the
5 United States Postal Service is equipped with the means to provide
6 prepaid postage return envelopes to the Washington Secretary of State
7 for distribution with vote-by-mail ballots;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
9 federal government be required to share in the costs of postage
10 associated with the return of vote-by-mail ballots, for those costs not
11 currently covered by the federal government, such that the return of
12 vote-by-mail ballots shall be at no cost to the voter.

13 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
14 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
15 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
16 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
17 Washington.

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